Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today announced that the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (HR 1585) included language she authored that will improve and expand the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Base.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Rep. Slaughter Secures Provisions to Improve and Expand the Niagara Air Force Base in Defense Authorization Bill

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today announced that the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (HR 1585) included language she authored that will improve and expand the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Base.

At Rep. Slaughter's request, the House Armed Services Committee listed the Niagara Air Base as an " Item of Special Interest" in their committee report. The Committee report directs the Air Force to give the 914th Air Reserve unit a new Explosive Ordnance Disposal mission (EOD) and the airbase a new dining hall beginning in next year's defense budget.

" The citizens of Western New York have long understood the tremendous value of

Rep. Slaughter added.

promote and assist our unique reserve station and to help maintain it as an asset to the

the Niagara Air Base, and I will continue to do all that I can at the federal level to

community,"

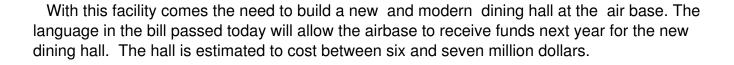
Merrell A. Lane, Chairman of the Niagara Military Affairs Council also added, **"NIMAC** is very pleased with the announcement today by Congresswoman Louise Slaughter regarding the provision which she has secured in the Defense Authorization bill concerning the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

Through the hard work of the Congresswoman, the future of the base looks even brighter."

The Niagara Military Affairs Council pledged that they will continue to work closely with Congress and the Air Force on behalf of the Base.

BACKGROUND:

Today's announcement continues the aggressive push by Rep. Slaughter to make certain that the Niagara Air Base remains vital to our national defense. Earlier this year, Rep. Slaughter secured a commitment from now-Secretary of the Army Peter Geren to construct a new \$27 million Army Regional Readiness Center at the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Station. This project was included in the President's FY 2008 budget.



The legislation passed today will allow the base to receive design funds for the EOD facility in next year's defense budget, with approximately \$7 million in construction money to follow in fiscal year 2010.

While the airbase was removed from the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC), BRAC did require that the 107th Guard unit associate with the 914th and share airplanes. This is the first time in Air Force history that a Guard unit will associate with a Reserve unit. Predictably, the Air Force is facing a number of unprecedented challenges in attempting to shift assets around in order to meet the BRAC mandate. Rep. Slaughter's amendment makes certain that these challenges are addressed by December.

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